

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 were examined. The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-8 and 13-18 is noted, with appreciation. This Amendment cancels allowable claim 13, and incorporates its limitations into the two independent claims, 1 and 12. Accordingly, all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement that cites a published US application (US 2002/0039427) directed to related subject matter, and the sole Office Action rendered in that application. US 2002/0039427 is the equivalent of WO 2002/030151, which is cited on page 3 of this application and was cited in the first-filed IDS.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 18-2220. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 18-2220. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 18-2220.

Respectfully submitted,

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